

# BOOK BRIEFS

*Black Awareness: A Theology of Hope*, by Major J. Jones. Nashville: Abingdon, 1971. 143 pages. \$2.45 (paperback).

Beginning with an examination of black history in the United States, Dr. Jones shows that the church has too long conformed to its traditional social context rather than having pioneered in racial reform. Yet even in today's world of racial pride and revolutionary zeal, a theology of hope is projected, a theology that will bring about a type of community that transcends racism.

*Isaiah: Prophecies, Promises, Warnings*, by W. E. Vine. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971. 222 pages. \$1.95 (paperback).

This book gives a chapter-by-chapter analysis of the text in laymen's language. Its aim is two-fold: first, to seek to unfold the Scriptures; secondly, to bring to bear upon the lives of believers the practical effects of the warnings, promises, and prophecies of the book of Isaiah. It is a reprint of a classic.

*Fire in the Hills*, by Lee Fisher. Nashville: Abingdon, 1971. 158 pages. \$4.95.

This is the story of real life on a missionary frontier. Its setting is the Laurel Fork section of Bell County, Kentucky, in a quiet mountain community called Frakes. The story is largely told through some of the lives that were changed under the influence of a God-endowed preacher. It shows that the age of miracles is very much with us. Lee Fisher is now a personal assistant to Billy Graham.

*How to Prepare Biblical Messages*, by James Braga. Portland (Oregon): Multnomah Press, 1969. 216 pages. \$5.95.

This manual on homiletics, designed for both the classroom and the pastor's study, divides itself into two parts, the first presenting a discussion of the major types of sermons and the second dealing with the mechanics of sermon construction. The work is rich in practical insights and reflects a lifetime of study.

*Dictionary of Pagan Religions*, by H. E. Wedeck and Wade Baskin. New York: Philosophical Library, 1971. 363 pages. \$10.00.

Assembled here for the first time in one volume are essential facts about the cults and rites associated with polytheistic religions from the Stone Age till now. The aim is to preserve a partial record of past and present pagan religions throughout the world.

*Expository Sermons on the Book of Daniel*, by W. A. Criswell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Vol. I, 1968, Vol. II, 1970. \$3.50 ea.

A well-known Baptist pastor, "overwhelmed by the immensity and virulence of the bitter attacks against the authenticity of this prophecy," dedicated himself to preaching through the book. Volume I deals with introductory materials and discussion; Volume II with Daniel, chapters 1-3. Other volumes are in preparation. The two in hand present the liberal onslaught and this scholar-preacher's defense.

*The Contemporary Preacher and His Task*, by D. W. Yohn. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. 159 pages. \$2.95 (paperback).

The senior pastor of the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College (N. H.) attempts to discover a way by which expository preaching can become

an exciting adventure for both preacher and people. He is concerned with the sacramental nature of preaching: the sermon must become a channel of the grace of God to men. The book discusses matters such as the unity, authority, and exposition of the Bible.

*Young Readers Book of Bible Stories*, by Helen Doss. Nashville: Abingdon, 1970. 384 pages. \$7.95.

In this book, remote Bible characters and their surroundings come to life. Intended primarily for the younger generation, these narrations and expositions may well serve preachers and teachers in need of a ready reference to simplified accounts of Biblical events and episodes. Both Old Testament and New Testament stories are organized each in a frame of nine parts. Scene-setting introductions are provided for each Testament. Researched etchings add to the value of the book.

*Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians*, by James Gilchrist Lawson. Anderson (Ind.): Warner Press, 1970. 271 pages. 95¢ (paperback).

This is a reprint of a work that calls for wide reading in our time. Here are gathered gleanings from the biographies and other writings of some of the most mature Christians of all ages: George Fox, Bunyan, Whitefield, Fletcher, George Muller, Moody, General Booth, and others who experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The reader finds moving evidence of God's purpose throughout the ages.

*In Remembrance of Me*, by Alexander Whyte. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970. 105 pages. \$1.50 (paperback).

This is a reprint of a little classic by one of Scotland's great preachers. The freshness and devotional quality of these Communion meditations are still richly appealing.